

sanitation facilities under Rural Water Supply Programme and Rural Sanitation Programme during the years 1985-86, 1989-90 and 1996-97 (upto January, 1997) is 3.11%, 4.28% and 2.62% respectively.

(b) The sanitation facilities in rural areas are being improved under the Centrally Sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme, the Minimum Needs Programme, Indira Awas Yojana, Externally aided projects etc. The emphasise is given on generation of felt need, people's participation, limiting the subsidy to 80% for persons below the poverty line for individual household latrines, setting up of production Centres, sanitary marts, developing model villages, exclusive sanitary complexes for women and provision of other sanitation facilities ultimately aiming an integrated approach to rural sanitation.

(c) Assistance is provided to Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) through the Council for Advancement of People Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) and Rashtriya Mahila Kosh.

Declining in Ground Water Level

2728. SHRI TILAK RAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ground water level has been declining constantly in Plateau regions of Madhya Pradesh and due to which hand pumps set up in villages have become useless;

(b) if so, the action being taken by the Government to maintain drinking water system in such areas and to check the decline in ground water level;

(c) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government has sent any Ground Water Promotion Scheme to the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment; and

(d) if so, the time by which the schemes are likely to be cleared/provided Central assistance on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State of Madhya Pradesh had identified dark and grey areas of the State on the basis of percentage of over exploitation of ground water and depletion thereof. Water conservation and recharge schemes have accordingly been prepared and submitted to Government of India. The State Government has established Rajiv Gandhi Water Shed Mission to take water conservation, Soil conservation and recharge measures through scientific methods in drought prone areas of the State. Work has been initiated in 2000 villages of 440 mini water sheds of 340 blocks under Drought Prone Areas Programme.

(c) Yes, Sir. The State Government has submitted 9 schemes estimated to cost Rs. 3536.98 lakh.

(d) The State Government have been requested to revise the schemes, and the same, will be considered for clearance on their receipt.

[English]

Assam Gas Cracker Project

2729. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether urgent steps are being taken to dispose of all the pending issues to start the implementation of the gas cracker project before the onset of monsoons;

(b) if so, whether such a step would go a long way in increasing the favour of the people of Assam to the Government; and

(c) if so, by what time the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Employment Schemes in Andhra Pradesh

2730. SHRI VENKATARAMI REDDY ANANTHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of ongoing employment schemes in the Urban Areas of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the total number of mandays created in the Urban Areas of the State till now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Two Centrally sponsored urban employment schemes, namely, Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMI UPEP), are being implemented in the country including Andhra Pradesh. Under NRY, the Schemes of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME) and Scheme for Urban Wage Employment (SUWE) are being implemented in Andhra Pradesh for providing self employment and wage employment opportunities respectively to the urban poor living below poverty line. PMI UPEP has as one of its many components self employment through setting up of micro enterprises.

(b) Under NRY, 20.44 lakh of mandays of work was generated under SUWE till 28.02.97.

There is no specific wage-labour employment component in PMI UPEP.